

Region 2 Headquarters 3201 Spurgin Road Missoula, MT 59804 Phone 406-542-5500

February 8, 2016

## Dear Interested Citizen:

Enclosed you will find for your review the Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for a Montana Fish, Wildlife & Parks (FWP) proposal to accept the donation of approximately 214.8 acres of land adjoining Threemile Wildlife Management Area (WMA) in Ravalli County, northeast of Stevensville. This generous donation is offered as a bequest in the last will and testament of Ms. Priscilla Antrim, the late owner of the property. Benefits of acquiring this property include gaining additional elk winter range for the WMA and enhancing public recreational access to the WMA and nearby National Forest lands.

FWP will hold a public hearing to discuss the proposal, answer questions, and take public comment, in Corvallis on February 18 (Thursday) at 6:30 p.m. at the Teller Wildlife Refuge's Slack Barn at 1180 Chaffin Lane (1 mile north of Corvallis on the Eastside Highway, turn west onto Quast Lane and go 0.3 mile, turn left/south onto Chaffin and 0.15 mile ahead is the driveway).

The EA may also be obtained by mail from Region 2 FWP, 3201 Spurgin Rd., Missoula 59804; by phoning 406-542-5540; by emailing <a href="mailto:shrose@mt.gov">shrose@mt.gov</a>; or by viewing FWP's Internet website <a href="http://fwp.mt.gov">http://fwp.mt.gov</a> ("Public Notices," beginning February 8).

Comments may be made on FWP's website (webpage above) or may be directed to Sharon Rose at the mail, phone or email addresses above. Comments must be received by FWP no later than March 8, 2016.

As part of the decision making process under MEPA, I expect to issue the Decision Notice for this EA soon after the end of the comment period. The Montana Fish and Wildlife Commission has the final decision-making authority for FWP land acquisition proposals, and the Commission will be asked to render its decision on this proposal at its April 14<sup>th</sup> meeting in Helena. Approval will also be necessary from the Montana Board of Land Commissioners (scheduled for its April 18<sup>th</sup> meeting in Helena).

Sincerely,

Randy Arnold Regional Supervisor

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RA/sr